Difference between basic and Mobile Telephone Tariff

†188. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the difference in basic as well as mobile telephone tariff being charged in the country and how does it compare with some selected countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): Comparison of national telecom tariffs with other countries is possible in a single-operator and single-tariff regime. In the multi-operator regime available in different countries, it is not possible to compare the basic and mobile telephone tariffs available in India with those of other countries as a large number of tariff packages are on offer by different operators. Even individual operators offer different tariff packages. Comparison is also difficult because of the varying exchange rates, differences in purchasing power and different teledensities across countries.

Mobile facility in N.E. Region

189. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the places in the North Eastern Region where mobile facility has already been provided in the first phase and proposed for the second and third phases;

(b) whether operation of the ban imposed on mobile telephone in most parts of the North Eastern Region has been lifted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when this facility would be made operational in the remaining parts of the North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Licences for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in North East and Assam Telecom Circles which cover the North Eastern Region have been granted to M/s Reliance Telecom (P) Limited & M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(BSNL); Licence has also been granted to M/s Hexacom India Limited for North East Telecom Circle Services Area. CMTS is being presently provided by M/s Reliance Telecom (P) Limited only in Shillong & Guwahati. Other operators have yet to start the service in these areas.

(b) and (c) The Government decision, to allow extension and fresh start of CMTS, was conveyed on 21.8.02 to the Licensed Cellular Operators in the North East and Assam Telecom Circle Service Areas.

(d) BSNL has decided to roll-out its CMTS services as per its plan under Phase-I and Phase-II together in the North East and Assam Telecom Circle Service Areas from August, 2003, to cover various cities/towns.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

190. SHRI SWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of person on the waiting list for telephone connections in the country as on the 30th April, 2002, district-wise/State-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided during the last three years, till date, district-wise; and

(c) the number of telephone connections proposed to be provided during the year 2002-03 and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the country as on the 30.4.2002 is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below). Information is being collected for waiting list and no. of telephone connections provided during the last 3 years, district-wise and will be laid on table of the House.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) propose to provide 55.9 lakh and 1.2 lakh new telephone connections during the year 2002-2003. More number of exchanges are being commissioned and more underground cables are being laid to provide connections. MTNL has waived off registration and installation charges.